

Vision Derbyshire Joint Committee Climate Change and Planning Policy Accelerated Delivery Programme

Date:	4 April 2022
Key ambition area:	Live and Work Sustainably
Sponsors:	Councillor Garry Purdy – Derbyshire Dales District Council Julian Townsend – Amber Valley Borough Council
For publication:	Yes

1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To provide an update on the Accelerated Delivery Programme for the Climate Change and Planning workstream and to seek funding to progress the implementation of an online version of the Derbyshire Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) and metric that would also include a range of evidence and best practice to help councils and developers address the issues of climate change and environmental sustainability.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Vision Derbyshire Leaders and Chief Executives note progress of the Climate Change and Planning workstream.
- 2.2 Agree up to £20,000 funding to allow the Climate Change SPG and metric to progress by the development of a bespoke web presence and online resource to enable the consideration of climate change in planning policy and in the consideration of planning applications.

3.0 Reason for recommendations

- 3.1 To present the success of delivering the Planning and Climate Planning Policy work stream of the theme Live and Work Sustainably as part of the Accelerated Delivery Programme.
- 3.2 There is need to publish an online accessible version SPG that would include the associated metric.

4.0 Report details

- 4.1 Climate Change is now the greatest challenge facing our society. The scientific evidence of climate change is overwhelming and the global impacts of climate change will be severe.
- 4.2 The UK has a legal commitment to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050 with a minimum 78% reduction by 2035 compared to 1990 levels. At a local level Derby and Derbyshire must play its part in this by reducing emissions and increasing renewable energy generation. Spatial planning plays a central role in the transition to a low-carbon society, by shaping new and existing developments in ways that reduce carbon dioxide emissions, and in the consideration of renewable energy applications.
- 4.3 This is particularly important as Derbyshire continues to be an area of high planned growth up to around 2035. There is now a good understanding of the current distribution of the growth agenda that will deliver homes, economic development and key infrastructure within Derbyshire over the next 15 years. It is timely to develop a range of planning policies that will help Derbyshire meet the necessary carbon reduction targets, but also will be embedded in helping good growth within the County. There is now an opportunity to start thinking about the next generation of growth and ask fundamental questions around what we would like Derbyshire to be like in the next 50 years and how shared issues can best be addressed.
- 4.4 Fundamental to this is how both climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation is addressed. Many of the adverse impacts of climate change, such as extreme heat, flooding and water scarcity, vary spatially but will result in costs to businesses and householders of Derbyshire. Solutions to these problems need to be developed locally. Planning can do this directly through, for example:
- Consenting renewable-energy developments.
 - Determining the location, scale, mix and character of development to ensure that its density, layout, building orientation and landscaping make it resilient to climate impacts.
 - Encouraging a wide range of behavioural change, such as enabling people to make personal choices through, for example, the creation of green and walkable streets.
- 4.5 Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) are bound by the legal requirement set out in Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended by the Planning Act 2008, for development plan documents (taken as a whole) to include policies designed to secure that the development and use of land in the LPA's area contribute to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change. This outcome-

focused duty on local planning clearly signals the priority to be given to climate change in plan-making.

- 4.6 In planning for renewable energy, paragraphs 155, 156 and 158 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) encourage local authorities to take a positive approach by identifying suitable areas for renewable energy generation and its supporting infrastructure, and by maximising the opportunities for community-led and decentralised energy production.
- 4.7 A planning and climate change workstream has been identified under the Vision Derbyshire ‘live and work sustainably’ theme to achieve the rapid delivery of an agreed planning policy approach across the County. Following a meeting of the Planning and Climate Change executive group, five quick wins were identified:
- i. Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (or similar) – umbrella document to drive consistent planning policy across the County.
 - ii. Review of Derbyshire Local Plan Climate Change related policies – consider good practice across Derbyshire or UK.
 - iii. Review of Renewable Energy Development – what has been developed and approved.
 - iv. Developing Climate Change Guidance for Derbyshire Neighbourhood Plans
 - v. Presentations to all D2 Chief Executives and Leaders – ongoing learning including for officers
- 4.8 There is already a strong, common platform of support for work in this area as each of the District/Borough, County, City and National Park authorities have either declared a climate change emergency or adopted an alternative motion to address climate change and in doing so, have also worked closely to develop the Derbyshire Environment and Climate Change Framework.

- 4.9 The Derby and Derbyshire authorities also have a strong track record of working collaboratively across the planning sphere. The existing Derbyshire Planning Policy Officers group meets 3 times per year, from which a Climate Change and Planning sub-group has been formed. The subgroup meets every 3 weeks to drive forward this workstream, and also incorporates non Vision Derbyshire authorities as the significance of the climate change workstream is recognised.
- 4.10 Work has been ongoing to address the five quick wins as identified above, and significant progress has been made in all areas. A summary of progress is contained below:

Climate Change SPD (or similar) – Quick win 1

- 4.11 Ten out of 12 local plans in Derby and Derbyshire (including the Minerals and Waste Local Plans) are currently being replaced or are in a review process and it is therefore an opportune moment to bring forward evidence to support the development of future policy.
- 4.12 The sub-group agreed that the form of this document should be as supplementary planning guidance (SPG) as there are no hooks in many of the current local plans (especially those recently adopted) to allow for the development of supplementary planning documents. A draft SPG has been prepared and will provide the information needed to develop and implement local plan policies which will address the causes of climate change and implement the actions needed to adapt to the changes that are now inevitable.
- 4.13 The SPG will seek to assist in the development of robust planning policy that will:
- Maximise reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from energy use, embedded energy and the creation of wastes
 - Improve community and infrastructure resiliency to the impacts of climate change
 - Avoid pollution of the air, land and water
 - Avoid noise and light pollution
 - Contribute to the health and wellbeing of our communities and natural systems
 - Facilitate transport choices, prioritising demand reduction, active travel and modal shift to other clean alternatives such as public transport and battery electric vehicles (BEVs)
 - Conserve and enhance the natural environment and contribute to biodiversity enhancement and carbon sequestration
 - Facilitate clean growth in the economy, taking advantage of demand for green technologies and services
- 4.14 The SPG will also deliver ‘quick win ii’, with a chapter reviewing current Derbyshire Local Plan Climate Change related policies and considering good practice across the UK. This guide will also assist in the development of local planning policy at all

levels, including neighbourhood plans (quick win iv). The guide however will not provide draft policies, as these are to be made in light of local circumstances and priorities, but it will identify a number of climate related issues or design considerations that should be taken into account in the design and implementation of development proposals and can be included in development plan policies.

- 4.15 To support the SPG, an innovative climate change metric has been produced which quantifies the degree to which a development at planning application stage contributes to climate change mitigation. The metric does not give an indication of tonnes of greenhouse gas saved through reduced emissions but is intended to identify whether or not a number of issues or design considerations have been included in the development design process and whether they have been included for implementation in the final proposal. The metric highlights where there are deficiencies in an application in the following areas: energy efficiency and generation, transport and active travel, design and layout, green and blue infrastructure and biodiversity.
- 4.16 The SPG and the metric was sent for validation and comment to Hugh Ellis of the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) who co-authored the joint TCPA/Royal Town Planning Institute publication ‘The Climate Crisis: A Guide for Local Authorities on Planning for Climate Change’; and the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research (a partnership of universities). Indications are that both consultees like the approach. The draft content of the SPG and metric has been shared with the sub-group members for comment.
- 4.17 The metric provides the opportunity for both developers and/or planning officers to assess the level to which climate change has been considered in the development of a planning proposal. As such the SPG and metric are intended as an online web based resource. As these resources have developed from a collaborative cross boundary project which has emerged from a Vision Derbyshire workstream, a web presence is envisaged to host the current and future resources and evidence. Options for how this web base resource and funding of circa £20,000 however is required to commission this work.

Review of Renewable Energy Development – what has been developed and approved (Quick win iii)

- 4.18 The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) already monitors renewable energy developments on a quarterly basis. This information will be reviewed periodically by sub-group officers.
- 4.19 With regard to renewable energy, the Vision Derbyshire Planning and Climate Change executive group did reflect on the production of a renewable energy study across Derbyshire. It was not considered as part of the planning and climate change workstream but could form part of later Vision Derbyshire work. The sub-group however felt that new evidence on green energy/ renewable energy was necessary to support plan making and the development management process as previous studies for renewable energy were piecemeal and out of date. Added to this, there has recently been a raft of speculative large scale solar planning applications in Derbyshire with little or nothing in current Local Plans to guide such significant developments. It was considered that a renewable energy study would help authorities to strategically assess sites and applications as part of both the Local Plan and Development Management process.
- 4.20 As noted above, a number of local plans are currently within a review process and it is therefore an opportune moment to develop a Derbyshire-wide understanding of how much energy is needed, the type and potential scale of renewable energy technologies, where renewable energy generation developments could be located and the potential opportunities and challenges this could present, including the deployable potential energy generating capacity that may be available from renewable sources.
- 4.21 Successful grant submissions were made to the Midlands Energy Hub, D2 Energy Board and Business Rate Funding, to raise £50,000 funding has enabled a renewable energy study to be delivered, the key aims of which are;
- To provide local planning authorities with sufficient fine grained detail to develop an understanding of the overall energy requirement, the potential for renewable energy development in their areas; the potential energy generating capacity; and how this development might be planned for and managed through the planning system.
 - The provision of robust evidence to underpin the inclusion of effective renewable energy and climate change policies into Local Plans to support both the examination in public of a local plan and the defence of a local plan policy at a planning appeal.
 - To ensure that the right typology of renewable energy is delivered in the right location, given the degree of landscape sensitivity in Derby and Derbyshire and the Peak District National Park, using landscape character types as a spatial framework.

- To contribute towards a local plan evidence base in line with the National Planning Policy Framework, and in particular paragraphs 155 and 158(b).

4.22 Following the grant awards, a tendering process was undertaken and a contract awarded to Scene Connect.

Presentations to all D2 Chief Executives and Leaders – ongoing learning including for officers (Quick win v)

4.23 There are three learning streams proposed:

- Targeted bespoke training on the climate change metric for local planning authority officers will be facilitated in 2021. This may also be recorded on Teams as a training resource.
- A wider Derby and Derbyshire webinar training event for all members and officers with key speakers towards the end of the workstream.
- One of the conditions of the Midlands Energy Hub and D2 Energy Board grant is to disseminate the ‘Derbyshire’ approach and Renewable Energy Study information across the Midlands Energy Hub area. The renewable energy study tender included for the appointed consultants to present at workshops/seminars about their work on the renewable energy study.

Further work streams

4.24 Given the success of this workstream and the progress made towards its delivery, the sub-group has been canvassed to suggest further work which could be supported with regard to the climate change agenda. Potential work areas have been identified and subject to approval and capacity, these could be taken forward as part of the ongoing Vision Derbyshire workstream.

5.0 Alternative options

- 5.1 Not to continue the collaborative approach to working with all the other Derbyshire Local Planning Authorities could raise the risk of inconsistent climate change policies across Derbyshire. Without the SPG and metrics, there would be a conspicuous lack of county-focussed guidance tailored to supporting consistent policy formulation. Therefore, this option is considered to be untenable.
- 5.2 In developing a collaborative approach, alternative approaches to climate change planning policy were considered, and the preferred approach is continuing working closely with all the Derbyshire Local Planning Authority partners, which is considered achievable.

6.0 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money

- 6.1 The allocation of £20,000 towards the development and delivery of a bespoke website based resource.
- 6.2 Currently the delivery of a bespoke web presence and online resource has not been market tested, with a risk that the development of an online metric may drive the cost over the stated amount.
- 6.3 The delivery of the work streams has been shared across the Local Planning Authority partners and has no financial implications. Successful grant submissions were made to the Midlands Energy Hub, D2 Energy Board and Business Rate Funding, to raise £50,000 funding has enabled a renewable energy study to be delivered.

7.0 Implications for consideration – Legal

- 7.1 There are no legal or data protection issues arising directly out of this report.
- 7.2 Local planning authorities are bound by the requirement set out in Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as amended by the Planning Act 2008, for development plan documents (taken as a whole) to include policies designed to secure that the development and use of land in the LPA's area contribute to the mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.

8.0 Implications for consideration – Human resources

- 8.1 There are no human resource issues arising directly out of this report.

9.0 Implications for consideration – Climate change

9.1 The collaboration with other Local Planning Authorities supports the Council’s ambition to be a net zero organisation by 2032, or sooner, and for the County to be net zero by 2050 and informs the action that needs to be taken to achieve these ambitions.

10.0 Implications for consideration – Equality and diversity

None

11.0 Implications for consideration – Risk management

Description of the Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigating Action	Impact	Likelihood
There are no identified risks associated with this developing the workstreams	-	-	-	-	-

Document information

Report author
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Background documents
These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when the report was prepared.
Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance and metric
Appendices to the report
None